



SYSTEM FOR ALERTING A VEHICLE DRIVER

PRIOR APPLICATION

This application is a continuation-in-part from application S.N. 10/139,789, filed May 7, 2002[.], now
5 abandoned.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a system for alerting a driver of a motor vehicle. More particularly, it refers to a system for detecting a driver's failure to move the steering
10 wheel in a normal manner such as when the driver is drowsy and provides a warning to alert the driver.

It is well known from U.S. Patents 3,106,981 and 3,794,969 that the normal vehicle driver moves the steering wheel at about one quarter of an inch or two degrees every few seconds.

15 The failure to move the wheel within seven seconds is an indication that the driver is drowsy or has fallen asleep. This condition frequently results in dangerous accidents seriously injuring or killing the driver and possibly others. While the aforementioned patents provide a means to alert the
20 driver, there are practical problems in implementing these prior art systems. A practical after market system for alerting a driver when the driver is not operating the motor vehicle in a normal manner is needed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 The present invention provides a driver alert system that can be easily mounted to a vehicle. A graduated optic tape is

located in the driver's seat 44. In addition, the circuit could be connected to the vehicle horn 46 to cause it to sound instead of buzzer 32[,].

5 This system for alerting drivers can be easily installed as an after market item. The optical sensor 18 and reflective tape 10 are merely glued to vehicle components and the electrical connection to the brake light switch 36 is usually found under the vehicle dash board.

10 A substantially equivalent functional system can be produced by substituting substantially equivalent elements for the above described elements to produce substantially the same results in substantially the same way.